

# SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

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# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE GREATEST LIVING WRITER IN SPANISH --  
JORGE LUIS BORGES TO GIVE PUBLIC LECTURE AT S.G.W.U. FEB. 29

Jorge Luis Borges, considered to be the most important writer now working in the Spanish language, will deliver a lecture on "The Beginnings of English Poetry" at Sir George Williams University Thursday, February 29.

The distinguished Argentinian author will be in Montreal as guest of the University's Department of English. He will speak at 8:30 p.m. in the Alumni Auditorium of the Hall Building, Maisonneuve Boulevard and Bishop Street. The lecture is open to the public.

Senor Borges is the author of six volumes of poems, eleven volumes of essays (including Historia de la Eternidad, Inquisiciones, and Otras Inquisiciones), five volumes of stories (including El Aleph and Ficciones), and two volumes of stories and poems (including his most recent Personal Anthology, published in North America by Grove Press in 1967).

In 1961 he shared the International Publishers Prize with Samuel Beckett.

Presently Senor Borges is a visiting professor at Harvard University, lecturing on English and American poetry.

Born in Argentina in 1899, his first poem was published in Spain in 1919. Returning to Argentina, he had several volumes of poetry and essays published in the 1920's and was associated with Sur, edited by Victoria Ocampo. He achieved his greatest success in the stories which began to appear in the late 1930's and were subsequently collected in the volumes Ficciones and El Aleph.

In collaboration with Adolfo Bioy Casares, using the joint pseudonym H. Bustos Domecq or B. Suarez Lynch, he has written several detective stories. Also in collaboration with Bioy Casares are film scripts, including one for Torre Nilsson's "Days of Hatred" (1954). The translator of Kafka and Joyce, he is also editor of anthologies of detective stories and fantastic literature.

An opponent of the Peron régime, he was removed from his position of librarian and made a poultry inspector. After the fall of Peron, he was named Director of the Biblioteca Nacional and professor of English literature at the University of Buenos Aires.

His books published in English are: Ficciones (Grove Press, 1962), Labyrinths (New Directions, 1962), Other Inquisitions (University of Texas Press, 1964), Dreamtigers (University of Texas Press, 1964), and Personal Anthology (Grove Press, 1967).

André Maurois has written of Borges:

"Jorge Luis Borges is a great writer who has composed only little essays or short narratives. Yet they suffice for us to call him great because of their wonderful intelligence, their wealth of invention, and their tight, almost mathematical style. Argentinian by birth and temperament, but nurtured on universal literature, Borges has no spiritual homeland. He creates, outside time and space, imaginary and symbolic worlds. It is a sign of his importance that, in placing him, only strange and perfect works can be called to mind. He is akin to Kafka, Poe, sometimes to Henry James and Wells, always to Valéry by the abrupt projection of his paradoxes in what has been called 'his private metaphysics.'"

From the office of: Malcolm Stone,  
Information Officer.

NOTE: For further information see the Paris Review interview -  
Number 40.